MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
20 November, 1973

AM
10:00 *CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 19 December, 1973
16 January, 1973

B. Minutes of October, 1973 meeting.

C. National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee - Report.

D. Extension of Shipstead-Luce Act boundaries to include areas around Eisenhower Civic Center and Federal City College.

E. Proposed Amendment to the D.C. Building Code to provide 180-day delay in demolition of historic buildings, structures and places - Status Report.

F. Georgetown Planning Group Waterfront Model.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

Mall Master Plan.

B. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. S.L. 74-22, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. - Partial razing of the Willard Hotel to inspect condition of frame.

2. S.L. 74-25, 811 Market Space, N.W. - Application for oversize sign on souvenir shop.

3. Appendix 1.

Old Georgetown Act

Appendix 2.

C. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Designs for new public telephone enclosures in public space.

D. General Services Administration

Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th & G Streets, N.W. - Preliminary Submission.

E. American Battle Monuments Commission

7th Armored Division Association Memorial Plaque, St. Vith, Belgium.

INTERVIEWS

11:15 A. General Services Administration

Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th & G Streets, N.W. - Preliminary Submission.

11:30 B. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

Mall Master Plan.

INSPECTIONS

12:00 Freer Gallery, Objects for Acquisition.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
20 November, 1973

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. in Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:	*Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman* *Hon. Nicolas Arroyo* *Hon. Jane O. Dart* *Hon. Kevin Roche* *Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith* *Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.* *Hon. George A. Weymouth*
Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary* *Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary* *Mr. William A. Bogan* *Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson* *Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.* *Mrs. Nancy N. Lusher* *Miss Lynda L. Smith*
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	*Mr. Ed Hromanick*
D.C. City Council Staff Present:	*Ms. Lynn Scholz*
D.C. General Services Department Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles Pavlick*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meeting: Tuesday, 8 January, 1974.

B. Minutes of October, 1973 meeting, approved.

C. National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee. The Secretary reported on the Committee's first meeting where it was generally agreed that the group would limit itself to concepts and stay completely away from design or planning review. One particular project was the planting of some 50,000 trees on the Mall to commemorate Viet Nam War dead. The Secretary asked the Commission's guidance in responding to this suggestion. The members suggested that an alternate location be found, such as along a major avenue. No action was required.

D. Extension of the Shipstead-Luce Act boundaries to include areas around the Eisenhower Civic Center and Federal City College. The Secretary told of his and the Assistant Secretary's meeting with Mr. William Dripps to disucss the detailed proposal at the Mayor's request. Mr. Dripps recommended a letter requesting advice from the D.C. Corporation Council on the Matter. The Secretary then received concurrence from the members on making a presentation to the Committee of 100 on the boundary change. EXHIBIT 1.

E. Proposed Amendment to the D.C. Building Code to provide 180-day delay in demolition of historic buildings, structures and places. The Assistant Secretary told the Commission of continued activities on the part of the staff to achieve wording for the amendment which would be mutually agreeable to the City Council, the D.C. Corporation Counsel, the Landmarks Committee, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission recommended continued efforts.

F. Georgetown Planning Group Waterfront Model. The Assistant Secretary presented a model prepared by the consultants, known as the Georgetown Planning Group, now studying the Georgetown Waterfront under the supervision of the National Capital Planning Commission. The model depicted recommended development for the area by presenting proposed, projected, and preferred development in three dimensions. The Commission recommended elimination of private housing in the water's edge, perhaps limiting it, in Mr. Roche's words, to a bridge ramp screen. More park and recreation uses were suggested, and the angled orientation of buildings at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue was not recommended. Mr. Smith questioned single family housing on the edge of Rock Creek Park, suggesting that that could also be excellent recreation land. No action was required, but the Assistant Secretary indicated that the CFA staff would pass along these comments informally at the next Georgetown Waterfront Planning Group Task Force Coordinating Committee meeting. EXHIBIT 2.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

Mall Master Plan. The Assistant Secretary presented a series of photographs and drawings depicting the history of the Mall through its L'Enfant, Downing, McMillan, and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill design development. The last of these was the proposed Mall Master Plan of elements to be completed by 1976. This included no open cut or tunnel freeway (South Leg) between the Jefferson Memorial, an additional row of trees on either side of the grass panel running from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, and pedestrianization of all east-west traffic. New packed gravel walks would be installed in

place of the present President-name roads. Existing north-south roads would continue as at present, with slight raising and realignment of 14th and 15th Streets across the grass panel. Resolution of the exact design around the Washington Monument would be forthcoming with a design proposal soon to be presented to the Commission. A variety of movable kiosks and exhibit facilities would be placed under the tree masses along the Mall with the main walk to be a shaded promenade with a series of diverse events along the way. Prime people moving would be by means of mini-buses, bikes and walking. Parking for private cars and tour buses would be at several peripheral locations, and visitor orientation would be at the Union Station Visitor's Center. After some study of the drawings, the Commission put the project aside until a later meeting with project representatives.

B. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 74-22, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. - Partial Razing of the Willard Hotel to inspect condition of frame. The Secretary presented photographs of the Historic Landmark hotel which had long been empty. The Willard is a controversial element obstructing the proposed Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's National Square. The Secretary pointed out that the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation was no longer totally committed to the razing of this hotel and that public sentiment was very strong for retaining the building in any new plan. As the application was worded, the owners' desire was to remove all or part of the exterior architectural features for structural exploration. A possibility existed of the frame being used with a new surface skin. The Commission unanimously rejected the idea of removal of the architectural character of the building. The action of disapproving the application was transmitted to the Office of Permits.

b. S.L. 74-25, 811 Market Space, N.W. - Application for Oversized Sign on Souvenir Shop. The Assistant Secretary presented photographs of an illegal and oversized sign, which was erected without a proper permit. The applicant desired a permit for the existing sign and a size exception. The Commission unanimously disapproved the application, recommending against both the size and the design of the sign.

c. Appendix 1, approved.

2. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix 2, approved.

3. Designs for New Public Telephone Enclosures in public space. The Secretary presented a series of photographs to the members of two free-standing phones. Both had small plastic hoods and brushed aluminum poles. The shelter would provide protection for the phone instrument and the user's head, only, thus avoiding the sanitary problems of the full phone booths now in use. The Commission approved the design as submitted, but suggested that the aluminum poles be a darker color, such as limestone, rather than either very bronze or very light natural aluminum color. EXHIBIT 3.

INTERVIEWS (The Commission broke from the agenda at this point to have the Mall Master Plan Interview.)

A. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

Mall Master Plan. The project was represented by Messers Fish and Rowell of the Park Service and Messers Owings and Childs of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, consulting architects. After Mr. Fish made several introductory remarks, Mr. Owings described his firm's role in redeveloping the Mall Plan and how well some elements of the 1966 plan have been carried out, such as the reflecting pool at the Grant Memorial, and how the plan has responded to the Commission's previous remarks and suggestions. He showed plans for a revised Constitution Gardens scheme, which he said accommodated the C.F.A. remarks. (This project has not been resubmitted to the Commission.) Mr. Owings referred to slides and drawings showing the main features and existing conditions on the Mall. Then Mr. Childs made a formal presentation of the detailed concepts for food, transportation, activities, and the reasons for the additional tree row in either side of the grass panel. After some discussion the Commission approved the design suggesting that exact plans for the Constitution Gardens and Washington Monument areas be presented for further study. The members also felt that the mini-bus stacking areas between 14th and 15th Streets should be restudied and that additional study should be given to in-fill planting between existing trees. The Chairman stressed the point that the additional rows of trees on either side of the grass panel were approved. EXHIBIT 4.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS (The Commission returned to the agenda.)

C. General Services Administration

Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th & G Streets, N.W. - Preliminary submission. The Assistant Secretary presented photographs, a model, and drawings for this project which has several layers of underground parking, a center court, common site with the historic Winder Building, and several floors of offices above a ground level of commercial uses. He pointed out that several landmark structures of lesser importance were to be razed by the project, but that the

main old structure, the Winder Building, was to be retained and its cornice height, along with that of 17th Street, was being continued. It would have urban design amenities which the other smaller old buildings could not offer. It was also pointed out that the historic Old State, War, and Navy Building was monumentally placed across 17th Street from the project. The members questioned the notched entrance at 17th and G Streets, on axis with a vista from Pennsylvania Avenue. Further discussion was withheld until an interview with project representatives later in the day.

D. American Battle Monuments Commission

7th Armored Division Association Memorial Plaque, St. Vith, Belgium. The Secretary presented a drawing for a bronze plaque to be erected inside the city hall at St. Vith. The Commission approved the design. EXHIBIT 5.

INTERVIEWS

B. General Services Administration

Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th & G Streets, N.W. - Preliminary Submission. The project was represented by Mr. Frank Mallalieu of GSA and Ms. Doris Holt of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and Max Urbahn, the architect. Mr. Urbahn made a brief presentation of the project's objectives and features. The Chairman spoke for the Commission in saying that the Commission appreciated seeing projects in the early developmental stages but could not wholly endorse the scheme without further architectural refinement. The Commission did however like the center court, retention of the Winder Building, and the use of the first floor for commercial space. They questioned the corner notch entry at 17th and G Streets and the scale of openings in relation to the small windows in most other buildings in the vicinity. EXHIBIT 6.

INSPECTION OF FREER GALLERY OBJECTS FOR ACQUISITION

The Assistant Secretary told the Members that they were expected at the Freer Gallery for the required inspection. Though several members indicated a desire to do so in the future, they delegated the Chairman to act in their behalf this time.

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

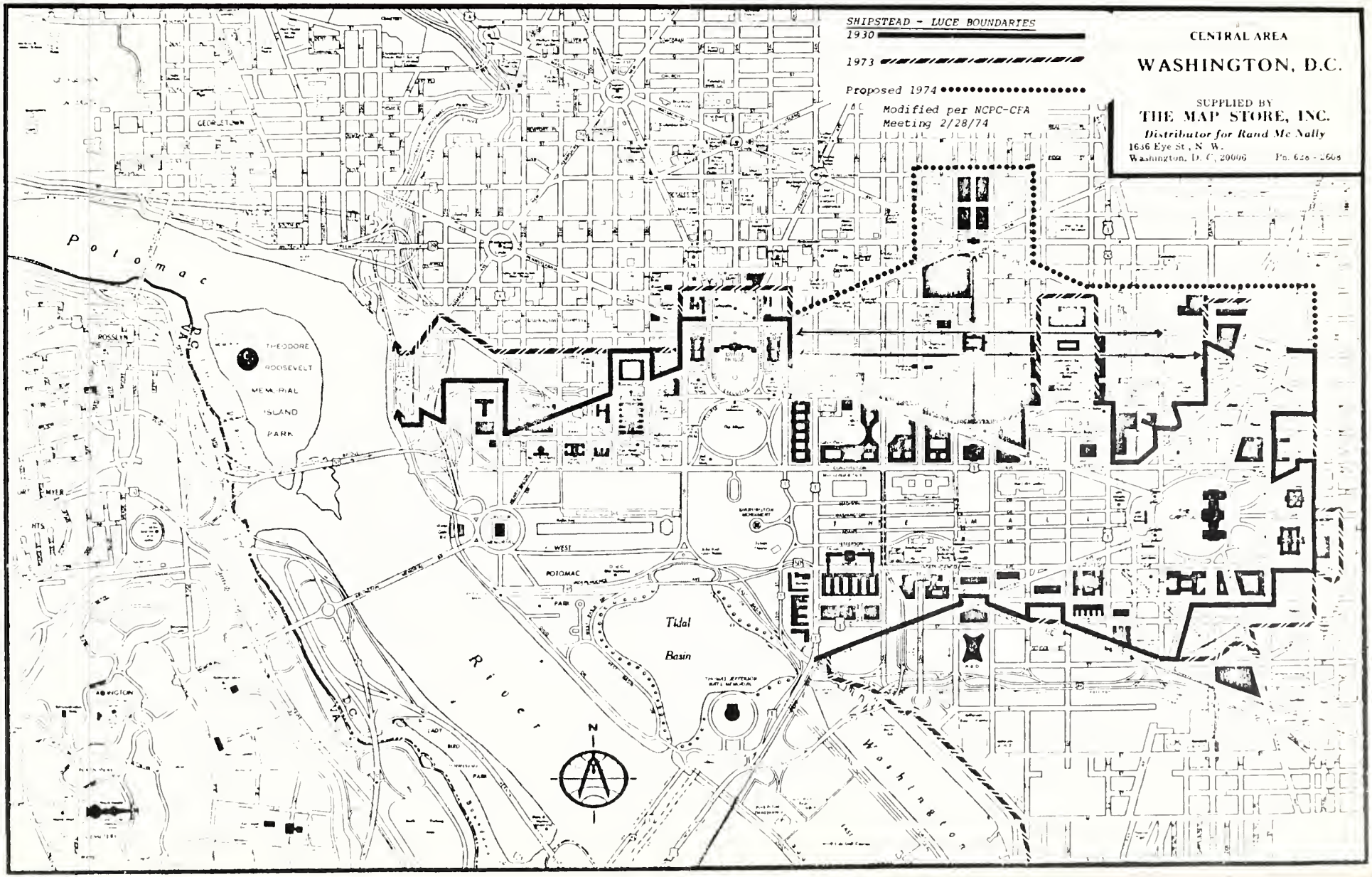
SHIPSTEAD - LUCE BOUNDARIES
1930
1973
Proposed 1974
Modified per NCPC-CFA
Meeting 2/28/74
CENTRAL AREA
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SUPPLIED BY
THE MAP STORE, INC.
Distributor for Rand Mc Nally
1636 Eye St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006
Potomac
River
THEODORE
ROOSEVELT
MEMORIAL
ISLAND
PARK
POTOMAC
PARK
Tidal
Basin
WEST
POSOLIN
ARLINGTON
N

EXHIBIT 1

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO — CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
JANE O. DART — EDWARD STONE, JR.
KEVIN ROCHE — GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

5 December, 1973

Martin Rody, Coordinator
Georgetown Planning Group
National Capital Planning Commission
1325 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rody,

Both the full Commission of Fine Arts and the Georgetown Board have had an opportunity to study the GPG Waterfront Model. Though we consider this a review and not a formal presentation, we are passing along the Commission's comments for your use.

The prime element which was questioned was the residential townhouse scale suggested for the water's edge between Wisconsin Avenue and Key Bridge. The Commission suggested a stronger alignment with Wisconsin Avenue geometry for structures flanking the Avenue. Perhaps more park land should be availalbe in this immediate area, or perhaps more recreation uses, such as tennis courts, boat clubs, and restaurants. Increased open space at the water's edge would be screened from the Key Bridge-K Street ramp by a thin cluster of housing which would protect the recreation area from the sight and sound of automobiles.

The townhouse structures at the Rock Creek mouth might better be recreational open space as well. Realizing that much of the model is geometric and schematic, some of the areas, such as that at the Gas Company and flanking the Old Georgetown Market with very 1973 diagonals raise further questions.

EXHIBIT 2

Structurally we are reminded that all public transportation, not just tunnelled cars, are an important part of this study. Thus we recommend peripheral parking areas, and transit connections.

We appreciate the opportunity to see this study as it progresses, and look forward to seeing continued progress.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

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JANE O. DART
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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

5 December, 1973

Dear Mr. Nelson,

At its November 20th, 1973 meeting the Commission of Fine Arts approved designs for telephone kiosks for public space. In approving the designs, as submitted, we would only suggest that a color a bit darker than natural aluminum be selected. Something in the limestone range, we feel, would give an added dignity to this element.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

John Nelson, Chief
Permit Branch
Department of Economic Development
Room 103, 614 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

EXHIBIT 3

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO
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EDWARD STONE, JR.
GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

3 December, 1973

Dear Jack,

I am pleased to confirm the Commission's approval at our meeting on the 20th of November of the Mall Master Plan. We find it in harmony with the Commission's previous suggestions and complimentary to the historical continuity of Mall designs as reimplemented by the McMillan Commission in 1901.

In particular we endorse the additional rows of trees flanking the greensward. We would be equally happy to review other studies on reinforcing the tree masses. Additional discussion of the revised design for Constitution Gardens and the Washington Monument Visitors' Center will complement our Master Plan review.

We welcome elimination of the east-west drives and agree that keeping the vehicles closer to the outer perimeter of the Mall and away from the greensward is desirable. There is a potential for some pedestrian confusion and cross circulation as is now the case at the National Zoo. Another element which should have further study is the minibus stacking area between 14th and 15th Streets. The diagonal movement and parking of these vehicles will not be concealed by the tree cover and are a weak feature of an otherwise excellent design.

We look forward to seeing further refinements of this quality for the Nation's most important park.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown, Chairman

Manus J. Fish, Director
National Capital Parks
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT 4

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO — CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
JANE O. DART — EDWARD STONE, JR.
KEVIN ROCHE — GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

5 December, 1973

Dear General Adams,

The Commission of Fine Arts approved the design of the 7th Armored Division Association Memorial Plaque, for St. Vith, in Belgium, at its November 20th meeting.

If we can be of further service in the siting of the plaque or examing the final casting work, please call on us.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

General A.V. Adams, Secretary
American Battle Monuments Commission
Room 2067, Tempo A Building
Washington, D.C. 20315

EXHIBIT 5

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

NICOLAS ARROYO
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EDWARD STONE, JR.
GEORGE WEYMOUTH

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

5 December, 1973

Dear Mr. Stewart,

At its November 20th meeting, the Commission of Fine Arts was happy to have an opportunity to see the early geometric design scheme for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building at 17th and G Streets, N.W. Though it is hard for us to give a specific approval in this stage, we look forward to seeing the project as more architectural details have been worked out.

The Commission was delighted with the decision to save and harmonize with the historic Winder Building. We also endorse the center court and the ground floor commercial space as being genuine urban assets.

The elements that the Commission questioned were the corner entry-notch and the scale of the entry and of the fenestration. These may bear more study. The meeting of the cornices of the adjacent buildings and some of the joints may also bear further study. Our next meeting will be on January 8, 1974. After that we will return to our normal schedule of the third Wednesday of every month.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. James Stewart, Project Manager
Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building
General Services Administration
Room 2010, 18th & F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20405

EXHIBIT 6

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

20 November, 1973

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 74-51	1054 31st Street, N.W. Marriott Corporation	Double face, canvas sign 2' x 6' fastened on iron braces (resubmission refer to OG 74-37).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/31/73	
53	2439 P Street, N.W. Mrs. Constance Healy	Remodel house and build addition at rear.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/31/73	
54	1241 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Canterbury Tales, Inc.	Brick sample for one story accessory storage building (resubmission refer to OG 74-38).
ACTION:	Issue permit for brick. 10/31/73	
55	3328 M Street, N.W. B. A. Coe & Company	4' high white cedar stockade fence.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/31/73	
56	2901 M Street, N.W. National Permanent Federal Savings & Loan Association	Two story, no basement retail and office structure (resubmission refer to OG 74-26).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. No objection to concept or geometry. Request 1/4" scale elevation drawings showing south, east, and west facades. Recommend larger scale sash lights on all first floor windows. Suggest restudy of first floor 29th Street side sash with rectangular openings. 10/31/73	
57	3750 Reservoir Road, N.W. Georgetown University	Enclosure for tank and drum storage.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 10/31/73	
58	3278 M Street, N.W. Nick Moshovitis	12" plexiglass letters studded into existing store front.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend 9" high Roman letters with matte finish. Recommend elimination of star. 11/19/73	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

20 November, 1973

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 74-59	3040 M Street, N.W. Sun Down, Inc.	Canvas awning.
ACTION:	Issue permit for red awning, straight edged without scallops. 11/19/73	
60	3800 Reservoir Road, N.W. Georgetown University	Remove existing wood double hung windows on 5th floor, west wing, and install new double hung aluminum windows of similar appearance and color.
ACTION:	Issue permit. No objection to replacing sash; recommend "limestone" color material to match sash of Dentistry Building. 11/19/73.	
61	3604 Prospect Street, N.W. S. & E. Bialek	25' addition to rear of residence.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Request additional information showing relationship of proposed work to adjoining buildings and site. Also request plans of proposed addition. 11/19/73	
62	3066 M Street, N.W. Ann Murherjee	Canvas canopy over doorway.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Canopy type awning not recommended for this building. 10/31/73	
63	3116 M Street, N.W. Marc Fleisher	New sign.
ACTION:	Issue permit for Roman letters with serifs. 10/31/73	
64	3233 K Street, N.W. Georgetown Floor Coverings, Inc.	Plastic flourescent sign.
ACTION:	Disapproved. Proposed sign does not comply with building code. Limit text to identification of business name. Recommend that letters be free standing, opaque faced, and back lighted. Request resubmission of drawings. 11/8/73	
65	3130 M Street, N.W. Cosmopole Corporation	Erect one sign, 12' x 22", flat against building
ACTION:	Issue permit. 11/19/73	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

20 November, 1973

NO.	*ADDRESS AND OWNER*	*PROJECT*
OG 74-66	*1423 28th Street, N.W.* *Mark Lipscomb, Joan Ladner*	*Resurface exterior walls with aluminum siding, repair rear deck, replace front bay and replace rear first floor windows and interior repairs.*

ACTION: Issue permit. Recommend proposed work as shown in ELEVATION. Plans should conform to elevation. Request material and color sample before issuing permit. 11/19/73

67	*2901 M Street, N.W.* *National Permanent Federal Savings & Loan Association*	*Two story, no basement commercial structure.* *Resubmission refer to OG 74-56*

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Suggest flush arches. Suggest thinner trim across windows and doors on west building. Also recommend against placement, design of lamps at entrance. Request submission of working drawings showing exact architectural detailing. Request color and brick samples. 11/19/73

68	*1206 30th Street, N.W.* *Lucy O. Dickey*	*New sign.*

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Suggest restudy with Roman letters correctly spaced. 11/19/73

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

20 November, 1973

NO.	*ADDRESS AND OWNER*	*PROJECT*
SL 74-		
19	*1525 H Street, N.W.* *St. John's Church*	*Columbarium and wall.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. Suggest wall be changed to gate. 10/18/73*	
21	*2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.* *National Academy of Sciences*	*Canvas awning.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit for dark green or brown canvas canopy. 10/31/73*	
23	*801 17th Street, N.W.* *Lafayette Limited Partnership*	*Install three signs in accordance with drawings.*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. No objection to column signs. Free standing letters on spandrel not recommended. Suggest letters on glass under soffit. 11/5/73*	
27	*501 13th Street, N.W.* *Warner Office Building*	*Wheelchair ramp in public space.*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 11/13/73*	